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Oswald's widow dropped from suit on exhumation

The chain of events in the proposed exhumation of Lee Harvey Oswald gained another tangle Thursday when Oswald's widow, Marina Oswald Porter, was dropped as a defendant in the suit filed by her brother-in-law to prevent the opening of the grave.

Kenneth Campbell, attorney for Robert Oswald, brother of the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, said today that even though Mrs. Porter had consented earlier to the exhumation, she was not pushing for it, and as a result had been removed from the suit.

"Getting her consent was a bootstrap approach," Campbell said, adding that English author Michael Eddowes is the person really attempting to exhume the body. Eddowes in a book has contended that Oswald was replaced by a Soviet spy.

It is not known whether Mrs. Porter still will give consent to the exhumation.

A hearing scheduled today to determine whether to open the grave and and re-examine the body was postponed Thursday until Sept. 5.

The hearing was requested last week after Robert Oswald filed suit in Tarrant County to stop the exhumation.

Judge James E. Wright last week issued a temporary restraining order halting the exhumation and scheduled the hearing for today on issuing an injunction.

Petty's attorney Thursday stopped all legal proceedings, however, by filing a plea of privilege, which contends that Petty has the right to be sued in the county in which he resides.

Wright set a hearing Sept. 3 on Petty's plea.

The plea of privilege issue takes precedent over all other legal questions in the case.